

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrical connector comprising:

a first housing having a first set of electrical contacts therein;

a second housing having a second set of electrical contacts therein;

said first and second housing configured to be matable with one another to mate said first set of contacts with said second set of contacts, said first and second housings being movable between an initial position wherein said first and second sets of electrical contacts are unmated and a final position wherein said respective first and second sets of electrical contacts are fully mated; and

a lever member rotatably mounted to said first housing and configured to engage said second housing when rotated, said lever member configured to move said first and second housings between said initial and final positions as said lever member is rotated when said lever and said second housing are initially aligned, said lever member comprising at least one blocking beam configured to separate said first and second housings as said lever member is rotated when said lever member and said second housing are initially misaligned.

2. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said second housing comprises a mating post therein and said blocking beam is configured to engage said mating post and to flex to allow said first and second housings to move from said initial position to said final position when said lever member is aligned so that a first gear surface on said lever member engages said mating post.

3. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein second housing comprises a mating post therein and said blocking beam includes a heel portion configured to engage a stop edge on said mating post.

4. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein second housing comprises a mating post therein, said mating post including a stop edge, and said blocking beam includes a heel portion and a bevel proximate said heel portion, said heel portion configured to engage said stop edge on said mating post and said bevel facilitating movement of said heel portion out of engagement with said stop edge when said lever member is aligned so that a first gear surface on said lever member engages said mating post.

5. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said lever member further comprises a cam arm including first and second gear surfaces, said first gear surface configured to engage said second housing to move said first and second housings from said initial position to said final position as said lever member is rotated.

6. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said lever member further comprises a retention aperture rotatably engaging a pivot post extending from exterior side walls of said first housing.

7. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said second housing comprises a mating post within an interior thereof and said lever member further comprises a cam arm including first and second gear surfaces, and a peripheral surface having notches therein, said first and second gear surfaces located along a wall within said notches, said first gear surface configured to engage a bottom portion of said mating post.

8. The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said second housing comprises a mating post within an interior thereof and said lever member further comprises a cam arm including first and second gear surfaces, said mating post including a cam tooth configured to engage said first gear surface.

9. The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein said lever member includes a cam arm and extends from opposite exterior side walls of said first housing between opposite interior side walls of said second housing from which extends opposing

said first and said second mating posts, said cam arm rotating between and engaging opposing said first and second mating posts.

10. An electrical connector comprising:

a first housing having a first set of electrical contacts therein, and a lever member rotatably mounted thereto, said lever member comprising at least one blocking beam; and

a second housing having a second set of electrical contacts therein, said second housing configured for mating engagement with said first housing, said second housing having a mating post located therein for engagement with said lever member, said mating post comprising a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface;

said lever member mating said first and second sets of contacts as said lever member is rotated when said lever member engages said second engagement surface of said mating post; and

said blocking beam preventing mating of said first and second contacts as said lever member is rotated when said lever member engages said first engagement surface.

11. The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein said blocking beam is configured to flex to allow said first and second housings to move from said initial position to said final position when said lever member engages said second engagement surface of said mating post.

12. The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein said blocking beam includes a heel portion configured to engage a stop edge on said mating post.

13. The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein said blocking beam includes a heel portion and a bevel proximate said heel portion, said bevel facilitating

movement of said heel portion out of engagement with a stop edge on said mating post when said lever member engages said second engagement surface of said mating post.

14. The electrical connector of claim 10 wherein said blocking beam includes a heel portion configured to engage a stop edge on said mating post to separate said first and second housings as said lever member is rotated when said lever member engages said first engagement surface of said mating post.

15. The electrical connector of claim 10 wherein said lever member includes at least one retention aperture rotatably engaging a pivot post extending from exterior side walls of said first housing.

16. The electrical connector of claim 10 wherein said lever member further comprises a cam arm including first and second gear surfaces within a notch formed in a peripheral surface of said cam arm, said first gear surface configured to engage said second engagement surface of said mating post, and said second gear surface configured to engage an engagement surface of a second mating post within said second housing.

17. The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein said mating post includes a cam tooth, said first engagement surface comprising a top portion of said cam tooth and said second engagement surface comprising a bottom portion of said cam tooth.